



**COAST GUARD
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE
JACKSONVILLE**



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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 38-03

December 22, 2003

**Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS)
Threat Level: HIGH (Orange)
Maritime Security Level: TWO**

The Department of Homeland Security in consultation with the Homeland Security Council has made the decision to raise the national threat level from an Elevated to High risk of terrorist attack to **Level Orange**. The U.S. Intelligence Community has received a substantial increase in the volume of threat related intelligence reports. These credible sources suggest the possibility of attacks against the homeland around the holiday season and beyond. Accordingly, the Commandant of the Coast Guard and I, as the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, have raised the port security level to **MARSEC TWO** for all ports, waterways, and coastline in Northeast and Eastern Central Florida including ports along the St. Marys River in Georgia.

I recommend Port Authorities, facility operators, vessel operators, and infrastructure owners and operators review their draft or current security plans/procedures, even though operation under these plans is not required by regulation at this time, and implement MARSEC TWO measures. I also ask all operators **conduct an OPERATIONAL PAUSE** while all spaces and operations ashore and afloat are reviewed. The Operational Pause should include a review of all personnel at your facility or aboard your vessel, and a routine search for suspicious or unusual packages or planted devices. I do not believe the Operational Pause will require you to halt or disrupt your routine operations, but I leave that decision to your discretion in view of the possible safety issues involved with searching while operations are ongoing. Please report the all-clear as soon as possible and no later than two hours after you receive this MSIB to the USCG Integrated Command Center via our web-report form. Point your browser to:

http://www.uscg.mil/d7/units/mso-jax/Readiness%20&%20Preparedness/Marsec%20Communication_email.htm

If (and only if) you are unable to access the Internet, please report the all-clear to the Coast Guard ICC at 904-247-7318. I ask that you repeat the review/search procedures every 12 hours while MARSEC TWO is maintained, and please report **any** anomalies to local law enforcement, the Coast Guard ICC (**904-247-7318**) and the National Response Center (**1-800-424-8802**).

Report **suspicious activity** or **security breaches** immediately to 911, the Coast Guard ICC (at 904-247-7318) and the National Response Center at (800) 422-8802.

We also draw your attention to the Department of Homeland Security's web site for additional information about the specific threats and protective measures which all members of the maritime public should implement:

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29>

For those port stakeholders with questions or concerns about this MARSEC TWO heightened security evolution, the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator has scheduled emergency Port Security Committee meetings in the Port of Jacksonville and the Port of Canaveral for today (December 22, 2003). Attendance at these meetings is not mandatory, but may be of value in further explaining the threats, requested security actions, and likely effects on commerce and recreational boating. General public meetings have been scheduled for:

JMTX Port Security Committee	13:30 p.m.	JAXPORT Office Building
Port Canaveral Security Committee	13:30 p.m.	Port Authority Board Room

Please frequently check our website, **www.uscg.mil/d7/units/mso-jax** for updates.

All port stakeholders are requested to increase the awareness of all employees and personnel involved and report any suspicious activities to local law enforcement, the Coast Guard ICC (904-247-7318) **and** the National Response Center (**1-800-424-8802**). Future changes in MARSEC LEVEL will also be announced by bulletins like this and through the Port Security Committees.

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D. L. LERSCH
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Jacksonville, Florida